

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 SS-15
PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 /064 R

DRAFTED BY IO:CWMAYNES:OM
APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES
NEA:ALATHERTON (SUBSTANCE)
AF:WHARROP(SUBSTANCE)
-----121330 202151Z /65
O P 202108Z AUG 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199052

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PORC, SHUM, IS, XA

SUBJECT:EXCLUSION OF JEWISH CONGRESS FROM ANTI-APARTHEID
CONFERENCE

REF: LAGOS 9457; STATE 197412

1. REQUEST YOU SEEK ADDITIONAL URGENT APPOINTMENT WITH
HARRIMAN AND DRAW ON FOLLOWING MATERIAL ABOUT THE CONFER-
ENCE SECRETARIAT'S FAILURE TO INVITE THE WORLD JEWISH
CONGRESS.

2. HARRIMAN CONTENTS IN REFTEL THAT THE DECISION NOT TO
INVITE THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS WAS MADE ON TWO GROUNDS:
(A) SPACE LIMITATION, AND (B) LACK OF A CLEAR RELATIONSHIP
TO THE SUBJECT OF THE CONFERENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT SINCE
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THESE WERE THE CRITERIA, ISSUE SHOULD BE RE-EXAMINED TO
TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SENSITIVITY OF DECISION TAKEN. BOTH
CRITERIA CAN BE MET. THUS: (A) THE CONFERENCE HAS INVITED
TO OUR KNOWLEDGE SOME TWENTY-FIVE NGO'S. THE WORLD JEWISH
CONGRESS IS AT LEAST AS INVOLVED IN SUBJECT MATTER OF
CONFERENCE AS MANY ON THIS LIST - SEE REFTEL. INDEED,
THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS PROBABLY HAS A LONGER RECORD OF

CLEAR OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID THAN SOME OF THE ORGANIZATIONS
ISTED. (B) REGARDING SPACE LIMITATIONS, THIS CONFERENCE
IS OF SUFFICIENT SENSITIVITY THAT WE FIND IT HARD TO

BELIEVE THAT ONE OR TWO ADDITIONAL PERSONS CANNOT BE AC-
COMMODATED.

3. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT TO AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN THAT OUR
GOAL IS TO MAINTAIN A WIDE CONSENSUS WITHIN THE U.S. AND
IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY ON THE APARTHEID ISSUE. IF THE
JEWISH CONGRESS IS NOT ADMITTED, WE CAN EXPECT THAT, WHAT-
EVER THE REASONS FOR THEIR NON-PARTICIPATION, THE DECISION
WILL BE WIDELY MISUNDERSTOOD. IT WILL BE DEBATED IN
DAMAGING WAYS AND CAN THEREFORE DAMAGE COMMON EFFORTS TO
CONCENTRATE ALL OUR FORCES IN OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID.

4. IN SHORT, FAILURE TO INVITE THE JEWISH WORLD CONGRESS
MIGHT ENABLE THE CONFERENCE SPONSORS TO AVOID A SHORT-TERM
POLITICAL PROBLEM AT THE CONFERENCE ITSELF BUT AT A COST
OF WEAKENING THE CONSENSUS NEEDED FOR THE LONGER RUN. YOU
CAN POINT OUT TO AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN THAT THIS ISSUE HAS
YET TO REACH THE AMERICAN MEDIA BUT THAT IT WILL SHORTLY
AND WHEN IT DOES, WE MAY SEE A REACTION WHICH COULD SERI-
OUSLY DISCREDIT THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE IN THE EYES OF
THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

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5. WE RECOGNIZE THAT AT THIS LATE DATE THE WJC MIGHT NOT
BE ABLE TO SEND SOMEONE IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION.
NEVERTHELESS, THERE WOULD BE CLEAR ADVANTAGES TO SENDING
AN INVITATION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: APARTHEID, OPPOSITION TO ADMISSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE199052
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CWMAYNES:OM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770302-0002
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770840/aaaabhkj.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3fb28457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LAGOS 9457, 77 STATE 197412
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1537696
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXCLUSION OF JEWISH CONGRESS FROM ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, IS, XA, WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3fb28457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009